## CARE NECESSARY IN PICKING SITTING HENS

Many Characteristics Must Be Considered in Making Selection.

SEVERAL BREEDS EXCEL

General Purpose Ones Like the Rocks and Wyandottes Are Dependable.

By PROF. P. H. STONEBURN.

There seems to exist a widespread behen hatched chickens are stronger, have greater vitality than those produced by artificial methods of incubaion. That this idea is founded on fact is a matter which is open to debate, but any one who wishes to play safe will do well to hatch a portion of his chicks in the

good old fashioned way.
On large plants the incubator is an absolute necessity; on small plants it is convenience. When properly constructed and carefully operated it does its work well. And the quality of the chicks it produces is after all determined in a very arge degree by the quality of eggs enrusted to it. A good incubator hatched chick is to be preferred to a poor hen natched chick, and vice versa.

There is an art in the selection and handling of sitting hens. Some hens are sy that they should not be used for the work of rearing families. Others are quiet and dependable, seldom break ergs or crush chicks, and such are valuegg or crush chicks, and such are valuable to the poultryman who uses the matural method of hatching and brooding. In fact some poultrymen retain hens of this character from year to year long after they have passed the period of profitable egg production, asserting that they pay their way by successfully rearing one or more good broods of chicks

each season.

Hens of virtually all breeds will become broody and hatch chicks if given an opportunity. In the non-sitting breeds, as the Leghorns, Minorcas, &c., the tendency toward broodines has been largely obscured, but a certain percentage of the females of such breeds become broody each season. Because of their excitable, nervous temperament such hens are not reliable sitters and are seidom found satreliable sitters and are seldom found sat-

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nervous temperament such mens are not inflashed sitters and are seldom found satisfactory for this work.

The Aslatics, especially the Brahmas and Cochins, have the sitting instinct strongly developed and will attend strictly to business if permitted to hatch a clutch of eggs. But such breeds are heavy and clumsy, and for this reason are not as a rule regarded as being ideal sitters. Of course there are exceptions, and selected individuals give excellent results. Langshan hens are usually satisfactory, since with their apparent large size and abundant plumsace they are actually no heavier than Plymouth Rock hens.

Everything considered, sitters of the renearly purpose breeds, the Rocks, Wyandoutes, Rhode Island Reds and Orpinstions, are best. They are persistent, quiet, usually gentle, large enough to cover a goodly number of eggs and seldom cause loss by crushing esses or chicks.

Broodiness may develop at any season of the year, but is most common during the spring months, the natural breeding time. As the desire to sit comes on the hens begin to cluck occasionally and presently they will remain on the nest at night instead of going to roost. If they are to be permitted to sit they should be left undisturbed for a short time, as they may continue to lay for a few days. In case it is destred to "break them up they should be immediately removed to a strange pen or placed in a coop with a sait bottom. Either plan will usually cause them to change their minds and return to, the business of egg production. The nests for the sitters should be prepared in some suitable place to which the rest of the flock is denied admittance. It is a mistake to set hens where they may be disturbed in any manner.

The nests should be large enough to afford perfect comfort. Deep boxes of the state of the unreliable individuals will ploke their chicks and the test of the flock is denied admittance. It is a mistake to set hens where they may be disturbed in any manner.

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The nests should be large enough to afford perfect comfort. Deep boxes or barrels are unsatisfactory, since the hens will break many eggs when compelled to jump down on to them. The best plan is to have the front low, say six to eight inches high, so that the sitters may carefully step in.

nesting material nothing is better

han straw or hay of moderate length. acelsior is sometimes used, but this frequently becomes entagled about the hens' legs and much damage results. Sand or loam makes a good foundation. This is placed in the nest to a depth of two or three inches, slightly hollowed out and the straw or hay put on top.

In all cases the nest should be broad and shallow with inst swiftlens with too and shallow with just sufficient pitch to pressions in the nesting material fre-quently cause much breakage of eggs. Where a large number of hens are to be set the nests may be arranged in large pen, either in single rows on the floor or in tiers along the walls. Under such conditions each nest should have a such conditions each nest should have a which may be opened and closed at and each hen kept confined in her own nest excepting during the daily ex-ercising and feeding period. Without some such protection there will usually be much fighting, many eggs broken and hests deserted.

The trap nest is a most convenient ar-

rangement for handling sitters in large numbers. The hens may be released at a given hour each day and the traps set. As each hen returns to a nest she locks herself in and the others out. Conse-quently there will be but little fighting for the possession of favorite nests and no instances of two hens occupying the same nest with the result that the contents of other nests are permitted to become chilled.

The nesting pen should be provided with cishes for food and water and a good steed dusting place. The latter requires an abundant supply of road dust, fine

and or sifted loain.

After the sitters have occupied their After the sitters have occupied anest nests in the laying pen for two or three nights they may be removed to the special quarters provided for them. Any which are so cross as to make handling difficult or so nervous and flighty as to fly from their nests at the least disturbance should be broken up.

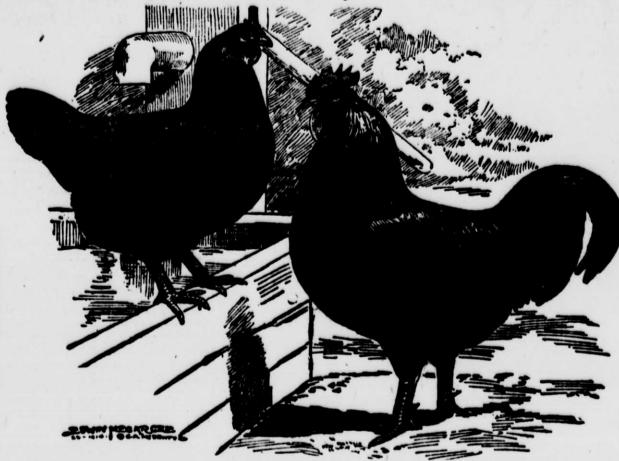
te broken up.
The selected birds should be moved to The selected birds should be moved to their now nests at night. Handle chem sently at all times. Dust each one thor-oughly with some good powdered lice killer, repeating the treatment each week

until the chicks appear.

Do not give them the selected eggs at first, but test them with china nest eggs or unhatched eggs from other nests until they have accepted the situation and shown a willingness to attend to busi-

Remove the hens from the nest the lext morning and feed them liberally. They will usually return to the nests of their own accord. Otherwise catch and replace them. On the second morning take out the test eggs while the hens are take out the test eggs while the nens are feeding and put in those which are to be incubated. If the latter are accepted there should be no further trouble.

The number of eggs to be placed in each next is determined by the size of the season of the year. NOW OUT OF STYLE, BLACK JAVAS MAY COME BACK



though the general belief is that it was originated in America. It is a hardy general purpose fewl, excellent alike for table use and egg production. The plumage is rich, greenish black throughout. Beak and shanks, black; eyes, black or dark brown; comb, face, wattles and earlobes, red; skin, yellow. Malos weigh 8 to 9% pounds; females, 6% to 7%. The eggs are good sized, with brown shells.

thin that they will fail to bring off a good hatch.

The ration should consist entirely of whole grain, principally corn. A small amount of green food may be given occasionally, but this should be limited in quantity and may be omitted entirely. Let each hen have all the grain she will eat. Also plenty of grit and clean, fresh water. The dusting place should be kept clean, as it will be freely used.

All nests should be examined each day when the hens are off. If eggs have been broken or the nest otherwise soiled it should be cleaned up and new material added if required. Soiled eggs should be wiped off, using warm water if necessary.

There is a big advantage in casting the control of the principally corn. A small can be considered in the principally corn. A small exceedingly popular breed, and though its numbers have decreased until

those hatched by the unreliable indi-viduals mentioned above.

There is an additional danger of loss at hatching time which should be guarded against. As the chicks dry off and gain strength they frequently come out from beneath the mother and go off on little exploring expeditions. If the sides of the nests are low the adventurous youngsters sometimes tumble out and become chilled before being discovered. If the hen is unconfined she will often go to the rescue of the wanderers, leaving the unhatched eggs. If, on the other hand, she is confined to the nest she may trample the remaining chicks and eggs in her efforts to go to the assistance of the crying youngsters outside. This clearly indicates the necessity of so arranging the nests at hatching time that no chick can possibly get out. There is an additional danger of los

And, finally, fight the bloodsucking mites constantly. These tiny, spiderlike peats multiply at an astonishing rate in warm weather, and if they secure a lodg-ment in the nests of the sitters they will cause no end of trouble. Many times they

that the nests and hens are free from vermin. If mites are found transfer vermin. If mites are found transfer the hen and eggs to a new nest and clean up the old quarters. A thorough spraying with kerosene oil in which napthalene fakes have been dissolved will kill the trouble makers. Any good liquid lice killer will accomplish the same result. (Copyright, 1913, by George A. McDevitt

### SUNFLOWER SEEDS VALUABLE.

Much Better Than Wheat as General Food for Poultry.

In Russia sunflower seeds are used as human food to a very considerable extent and are much more suitable than the cereals, wheat, barley, oats, rye, &c. The highest percentage of flesh forming elements in any of the cereals is in wheat, about 13 per cent., which is about the same as in a good sample of the sunflower seed. Wheat is suitable only for fattening poul-Wheat is suitable only for fattening pour-try owing to the very high percentage of starchy matter, 67 per cent. In sun-flower seeds there is only about 18 per cent. of starchy matter, but about 21 per cent. of starchy matter, but about 21 per

waste, but in sunflower seeds there is about 39 per cent.

For stock poultry sunflower seed is very suitable, the fat being necessary in the yolk of the eggs from which the chickens are hatched. Sunflower seeds appear to have a rather stimulating effect on the egg producing organs and may be fed to poultry either whole or ground, in the latter condition with middlings, &c., soft food, and a fair proportion of the soft food may be ground sunflower seeds. When sunflower seeds take the place of the cereain in soft food a greater percentage soft food may be ground sunflower seeds. When sunflower seeds take the place of the cereals in soft food a greater percentage of chickens would be raised from the eggs set than would be the case when fowls are dieted too exclusively with cereal foodstuffs. The average of fisch forming elements in the cereals is about 10 per cent. in about 36 per cent. of digestible solids. In sunflower seeds there is about 13 per cent. of digestible solids. Sunflower seeds are very suitable as a winter feed on account of the large quantity of sily fat in them. Where the land

# times certain here will refuse to leave the nest each day and such should be removed. Otherwise they may become so thin that they will fail to bring off a good

though its numbers have decreased until it is rarely found in large flocks it is still the favorite of many poultrymen. When properly bred the Java is hardy and productive, possessing all the desirable characteristics of typical breeds of the American class. The females are usually good layers of large, brown shelled eggs and make excellent sitters and mothers. Though the plumage and shanks are black, the skin is a rich yellow, so that well dressed carcasses are acceptable in the best markets.

Resarding the origin of the breed under discussion there is much uncertainty. Some authorities believe that it was imported direct from Java, being merely refined by American breeders. Possibly this belief is due to a confusion of this breed with Java Games, of which several

breed with Java Games, of which several importations were made many years ago. The weight of evidence seems to favor the claim that the Black Java is a the claim that the Black Java is a strictly American product and that it was brought out in Missouri, whence it was carried to New York State some time prior to 1860. In Ms new home it was soon recognized as being useful as well as beautiful, and for a time it was very widely bred. With the advent of the Plymouth Rock the Java began to lose ground and this has never been regained.

It is generally believed that the Plymouth Rock resulted from a mixture of the blood of the American Dominique and Black Java, though some well informed poultrymen hold that the latter was really a clean legged Black Coohin and not the true Black Java. Possibly and not the true Black Java. Possibly this point never will be settled definitely. However, it is true that when Barred Rock hens are crossed with White Wyandotte males some of the resulting pullets will be jet black and closely resemble in both form and color typical Black Java pullets. In fact a crossbred pullet of this character once was shown as a Black Java and was given a very high

Black Java and was given a very high score by a judge having an intimate knowledge of the latter breed.

An English writer is authority for the statement that black pullets of this kind were used in making up the Black Or-pington and that the latter "undoubt-edly borrowed its chief qualities from the Java blood, which had been infused into the Black Rock hens, from which the Orpington was bred."

It is to be hoped that the poultry breed-

It is to be hoped that the poultry breed-ers of America will see to it that the grand old breed is perpetuated in its purity, as being representative of the early type of the typical American gen-eral purpose fowl as well as because of its sterling utility value and remarkable In body conformation the Black Java

In body conformation the Black Java is long and deep. Of course this insures considerable weight, the males scaling \$ considerable weight, the males scaling \$ to \$½ pounds and the females \$½ to 7½ pounds, according to age.

The plumage is a lustrous, greenish-black throughout and should be free from any trace of purple. Beak, shanks and feet are black, the latter with yellow bottoms. The skin is the rich yellow demanded by our best markets. Face, earlobes, combs and wattles are red; eyes black or dark brown.

Fashions change in poultry breeding as in other things. Just why this excellent fowl is not more generally bred cannot be explained. Possibly we will see it taken up again and restored to its former high place in popular favor. It richly deserves batter treatment than is now accorded it.

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STRETCHES ACROSS CONTINENT.

Poultry Used in City Enough to Make Solid Line to Pacific.

Statistics show that something over 100,000,000 pounds of live poultry are required to satisfy the yearly demand of New York city alone. Probably six pounds would be a fair average weight to place upon the fowls shipped to the metropolis. Accepting this as correct it will be seen that 16,000,000 fowls are slaughtered every year to satisfy the New York appe

Bixteen million fowls, if strung out in Sixteen million fowls, if strung out in a straight line, would reach from New York to San Francisco. The demand for live poultry is especially strong wherever the Jewish population is large. Orthodox Jews will eat meat only on condition that it comes from the bodies of animals killed in accordance with the provisions of the Mosale law—that is, under supervision of a rabbl.

Much of the live poultry used in New York travels a considerable distance to

Much of the live politry used in New York travels a considerable distance to get here, the middle West and the South-west furnishing the greater part of it. The loss in transit is not heavy, how-ever, because the cars used are made es-pecially for the accommodation of poul-try. The live poultry business in Amer-ica is in itself a business of grand pro-motions.

Ounce of Prevention, &c. poultry need not understand how to care for soultry diseases. They have no diseases Those who understand how to care for

### BIG BIRDS IN ENGLAND.

Feel Sure of Themselves.

In a cross bred class of dressed peutry at the Birmingham, England, Poultry Show, held the first wock in December, the first prise was taken by a pair of Indian game and Orpington crossed birds, aged 6½ months, that weighed 25 pounds 16 ounces, shown by the Marchioness of Londonderry. Second and third prises went to the Earl of Plymouth, whose Indian game and dark Dorking pullets weighed 14 pounds and 15 pounds a pair respectively. A pair of the same cross won first for cross bred pullets that weighed 16 pounds 4 eunces.

In the class for pure bred cockersis the first prise was won by a pair of Indian game birds, 6½ months old, that turned the scale at 18 pounds 6 ounces, the second prize pair being 1½ pounds heavier—dark Dorkings—but not so even as the winners.

In commenting on these heavy birds a litering ham agains states. The Christian

Those who pin their faith to the turkey

The advantage of the trap nest is that it guides the poultryman in culling and developing his flock. Knowing exactly which of his hens are drones, he can reject the eggs of such at the breeding time. Having a record of the parentage of each chick, he need never be in doubt about results from his matings.

The chief disadvantage of the trap nest is that a good deal of time is required to look after it. The keeper must visit his nests several times a day for the purpose of releasing the layers. Fowls kept too long in confinement suffer loss of vigor. It has been stated on good authority that any pullet laying sixty eggs between the day of her first egg and March 1 can be counted upon to deliver upward of 150 eggs the first year. It follows from this that one needs trap nests during only a few months to gather records

the requirements for running them can be learned in a few minutes. After that everything depends upon the operator. He must be careful of his temperatures and moisture, attend to his lamp regularly, Get a good machine; it will prove cheapest in the end. Do not get too small a one. Very small incubators are hard to keep at an even temperature. A sixty egg ma-chine is excellent, not too small, nor yet unmanageable. unmanageable
Never put into an incubator as many
eggs as it will hold. The heat in many
makes of incubators gathers toward the
centre, and consequently eggs at the corners suffer.
The thermometer should be the one supplied with the machine. It should be level
with the top of the eggs and just clear of
them. tion is the quality of the eggs used. In-fertile eggs will not hatch. Pullets' eggs are not sold for hatching purposes by reliable concerns. Eggs from weakling hens either will fail to hatch or will hatch into profitees chicks. Eggs from a poor laying strain seldom are worth hatching. The person meaning to hatch will do better to go outside for eggs than to set doubtful eggs from his own flock. To build up a desirable strain one must set only desirable aggs and out the flock them.

If you suspect that the heat varies in different parts of the egg tray use two trustworthy thermometers. Some machines will show a variation of from 3 to 5 degrees. The best all around temperature for hensings is 102 degrees; for duck eggs 103 will show a variation of from 3 to 6 degrees.

The best all around temperature for head of segrees.

The best all around temperature for head of segrees.

It is not wise to overheat the incubator first and let it come down to the proper temperature. Better start the machine at the segree of the course of word of the segree of the course of the proper temperature. Better start the machine at the segree of the course of the proper temperature. Better start the machine at the segree of the course of the proper temperature. Better start the machine at the segree of the course of the proper temperature. Better start the segree of the course of the incubator. As it approaches the hatching time an egg contains considerable heat in itself and does not require at the segree of the same surrounding temperature as an at the finish. The ventilators should be opened gradually as time passes. You may begin with a little opening, but by the close of the eighteenth day the ventilators should be opened gradually as time passes. You may begin with a little opening, but by the close of the eighteenth day the ventilators should be opened gradually as the segree of the eighteenth day the ventilators should be opened gradually as the segree of the eighteenth day the ventilators should be opened gradually as the segree of the eighteenth day the ventilators should be opened gradually as the segree of the eighteenth day the ventilators should be opened gradually as the segree of the eighteenth day the ventilators should be opened gradually as the secret with a subsequent of the place at midnight and acts as though the whole place with all that is on it below to be segree to see the segree of the segree of

In commenting on these heavy birds a Birmingham paper states: "The Christmas turkey will have to look to its laurels, or it soon will be outdistanced in the race for a place in the laietide bill of fare by the more humble bird—the cockerel."

Those who pin their faith to the turkey will be pleased to learn, however, that Lord Rothschild has bred a turkey on his Hertfordshire estate that weighs 44 pounds. These figures seem to point to the fact that the "old country" poultryman, in addition to knowing how to breed winning layers, knows also how to feed and produce flesh.

The advantage of the trap nest is that

only a few months to gather records sufficient for his breeding season. To be worth while the trap nest must be absolutely certain in action. It must keep in the hen that enters and keep out all

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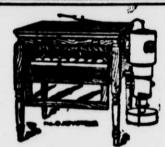


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